

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 CAB-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00

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R 011320Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9696

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 0522

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG PFOR US CZ

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS

REF: A) STATE 3759, B) 75 PRAGUE 2077, C) 75 PRAGUE 2123

D) 75 PRAGUE 2255, E) PRAGUE 433

1. BASIC FACT OF LIFE INCZECHOSLOVAKIA'S MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY, AS IN ALL OF HERINTERNATIONAL DEALINGS AND NEARLY ALL OF HER DOMESTIC ONES, IS TOTAL SUBSERVIENCE TO POLICIES AND DESIRES OF SOVIET UNION. THIS FACT REALLY ANSWERS MOST OF QUESTIONNAIRE CONTAINED PARA 7 REF A, BUT FOLLOWING COMMENTS MAY BE OF SOME VALUE:

(A) WE KNOW OF NO PARTICULAR GOC INTEREST OR OBJECTIVE DURING 1976 EXCEPT FOR ITS CONTINUING ATTEMPT TO SHED PARIAS STATUS IMPOSED ON IT FOLLOWING EVENTS OF 1968-1969. THUS, ON ANY ISSUE IN WHICH IT HAS NO SPECIAL INTEREST, NATURAL GORJ INCLINATION WOULD PROBABLY BE TO GO WITH THE MAJORITY IN EFFORT TO REAP WHATEVER GOOD WILL MIGHT THEREBY BE OBTAINABLE. WE
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THINK THIS WAS PROBABLY REASON FOR REACTION TO EMBASSY'S

ADVOCACY OF MRS. DILLON'S CANDIDACY FOR ICAO SECRETARY-GENERALSHIP (REF E)-- THAT GOC WISHED TO MAKE NO COMMITMENT UNTIL THEY SAW WHO WAS LIKELY WINNER. NEVERTHELESS, WE CANNOT ENVISAGE GOC NOT VOTING WITH SOVIET UNION, EVEN ON SUCH AN ISSUE. CZECHOSLOVAKIA IS ALREADY A MEMBER OF MOST MULTILATERAL BODIES. WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY INDIVIDUAL CANDIDACIES FOR POSITIONS IN MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS, BUT WE WOULD HARDLY BE AMONG THE FIRST TO KNOW.

(B) CZECHOSLOVAKS ATTEMPT TO PORTRAY DECISION-MAKING PROCESS ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES AS ONE OF "CONSULTATION" WITH HER ALLIES (REF D). WE FRANKLY DO NOT KNOW HOW MUCH GIVE AND TAKE THERE MAY BE IN SUCH CONSULTATIONS, BUT WE SUSPECT THAT IT CONSISTS PRIMARILY OF SOVIET GIVING AND CZECHOSLOVAK TAKING.

(C) OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT DELEGATIONS ARE FULLY INSTRUCTED IN MOST CASES. IF FOR ANY REASON THEY WERE NOT, THIS SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED TO MEAN THAT DELEGATION HAS A FREE HAND. THEY WOULD BE REQUIRED TO SEEK INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE TAKING ANY POSITION, EITHER FROM PRAGUE OR FROM SOVIET DELEGATION. WE WOULD EXPECT THAT IN FACT HEAD OF SOVIET DELEGATION WOULD PROBABLY BE ABLE TO OVERRIDE ANY PREVIOUSLY ISSUED INSTRUCTIONS.

(D) NO WAY.

(E) GOC IS REASONABLY RECEPTIVE TO AD HOC CONSULTATIONS ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES, AND WE HAVE HAD SOME GOOD PRE-UNGA DISCUSSIONS AND DISCUSSIONS OF SPECIFIC ISSUES AS THEY AROSE. WE DO NOT FEEL THAT WE HAVE EVER CHANGED ANY MINDS, BUT THERE IS SOME VALUE IN MAKING CLEAR OUR POSITIONS AND OUR PRIORITIES. WE ARE NOT SURE THAT THE CONCEPT OF INTERACTION ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES AS PART OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS IS ONE TO WHICH CZECHOSLOVAKS WOULD SUBSCRIBE. GIVEN THEIR PRESENT POLITICAL REALITIES, THEY WOULD CERTAINLY FIND IT DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT THAT A POSITION INTO WHICH THEY WERE PUSHED BY THE SOVIET UNION SHOULD NECESSARILY AFFECT THEIR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. GIVEN THE PRESENT STATE OF U.S./CZECHOSLOVAK RELATIONS, HOWEVER, THE QUESTION BECOMES SOMEWHAT MOOT; AS DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER VEJVODA INQUIRED (REF B) WHEN WE WARNED OF "CONSEQUENCES" IN BILATERAL RELATIONS OF CZECHOSLOVAK SUPPORT FOR CUBAN RESOLUTION ON PUERTO RICO IN COMMITTEE OF 24, CONFIDENTIAL

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"HOW COULD THEY BE MUCH WORSE?" NEVERTHELESS, GOC (AT LEAST MFA) IS NOT ANXIOUS TO OFFEND U.S. GRATUITOUSLY. THUS WE BELIEVE IT IS USEFUL TO MAKE OUR VIEWS KNOWN ON ISSUES OF THIS NATURE, AND TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF SELECTED ISSUES, IN THE HOPE THAT THIS MAY AT LEAST INFLUENCE GOC THINKING DURING "CONSULTATIONS" PROCESS WITH ALLIES; WE SHOULD IN NO CASE, HOWEVER, IMAGINE THAT GOC WILL BE OUR ADVOCATE. WE WOULD ALSO CAUTION THAT WARNINGS OF "CONSEQUENCES" ARE

UNLIKELY TO HAVE MUCH EFFECT, AND--TO THE EXTENT THAT THEY
REMAIN UNFULFILLED--THE OPPOSITE EFFECT OF THAT INTENDED.
FINALLY, WE WOULD REITERATE OUR POINT IN PARA 3, REF C, THAT
THERE IS A GROWING NUMBER OF ISSUES WHERE OUR INTERESTS AND
THOSE OF THE CZECHOSLOVAKS CONVERGE, AND EVEN COINCIDE.
ON THESE, ESPECIALLY, WE FEEL THE MORE CONSULTATION THE
BETTER. TO THE EXTENT THAT SUCH CONSULTATION BECOMES IN-
STITUTIONALIZED, WE MIGHT EVEN HOPE THAT OUR APPROACHES ON
CONTENTIOUS ISSUES WOULD HAVE MORE EFFECT. GOC HAS NOT,
IN RECENT MEMORY, SOLICITED U.S. SUPPORT ON MULTILATERAL
ISSUES THROUGH THIS EMBASSY.

2. MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS AND REPRESENTATIONS TO FOREIGN
MINISTRY ARE NORMALLY HANDLED BY POLITICAL COUNSELOR

WITH
PARTICIPATION BY CHARGE WHEN LEVEL AND IMPORTANCE DECTATE.
PERRY

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